

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1622

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC

SUBJ: NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING - MARCH 21

REF: A. USNATO 1529; B. USNATO 1528

SUMMARY. AT MARCH 21 NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) MEETING, DISCUSSION OF DRAFT AGENDA FOR SPRING MINISTERIAL MEETING FOCUSED ON LENGTH OF THE AGENDA AND WHETHER TO INCLUDE SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING (SEP) AS SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ADVANCE PRESS RELEASE WAS VERY BRIEF. SG DEVOTED MAJOR PORTION OF DISCUSSION TO OBSERVATIONS/COMMENTS ON ISSUES RAISED BY WINTEX 75, GIVING PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTION TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS (CN) AND RELATION BETWEEN "INITIAL USE" AND "FOLLOW-ON USE" OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE COMMENT THAT WINTEX 75 POINTED OUT POSSIBLE NEED TO REVISE EXISTING POLITICAL GUIDELINES FOR INITIAL USE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS STIMULATED SEVERAL ADDITIONAL COMMENTS INDICATING WIDE RANGE OF VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MARCH 21 MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) DISCUSSED DRAFT AGENDA (REF A) FOR THE SPRING MEETING OF NPG MINISTERS. SEVERAL
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SG REPS SUGGESTED THAT THE DRAFT AGENDA MAY BE TOO LONG FOR MINISTERS TO COVER WITHIN THE PLANNED TIME. SG CHAIRMAN (SHEARER) AGREED AND NOTED THAT PRIOR TO NEXT SG MEETING HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH DELEGATIONS ANY IDEAS THEY MAY HAVE ON SHORTENING THE AGENDA.

2. UK REP (LEGGE), PICKING UP FROM QUESTION BY TURKISH REP (SUNGER) WHETHER SELECTIVE EMPLOYMENT PLANNING (SEP) WOULD BE A SEPARATE ITEM ON AGENDA, STATED THAT UK WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT AS A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM. ITALIAN REP (AZZARI) SUPPORTED UK VIEW. SHAPE REP (COL JULIAN) PROVIDED SOME GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE ORIGIN AND EVOLUTION OF SEP, AND NOTED THAT SINCE SEP IS STILL IN A RELATIVELY EMBRYONIC STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT AND THERE ARE NO GREAT NEW STORES OF KNOWLEDGE TO ADD TO THAT ALREADY PRESENTED, MINISTERS COULD MORE PROFITABLY RAISE SEP UNDER OTHER AGENDA ITEMS. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT A DECISION WHETHER TO INCLUDE SEP AS A SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM WOULD REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION AT A LATER DATE SINCE AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS (UK AND ITALY) INDICATED DESIRE TO DO SO.

3. SG DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT ADVANCE PRESS RELEASE (REF B) FOR THE SRPING MEETING WAS BRIEF. CHAIRMAN NOTED MAY 28 DATE AS GOAL FOR FINAL APPROVAL BY PARTICIPANTS. US REP (WOODWORTH) NOTED THAT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO ADHERE TO SUCH A LATE RELEASE DATE (JUNE 13), PARTICULARLY WITH POSSIBLE VISABILITY OF PRE-MEETING ARRANGEMENTS. HE SAID THAT US WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL COMMENT IN FUTURE IF PROPOSED DATE POSES A PROBLEM.

4. MAJOR PORTION OF SG DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON INITIAL DRAFT REPORT (NPG(STAFF GROUP)WP(75)4, 19TH MARCH 1975) ON WINTEX 75 (POUCHED TO STATE (RPM) AND DEF (ISA) ON MARCH 20). THE DRAFT REPORT, A ROUGH "FIRST CUT" BY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF (IS), INCITED RATHER LIVELY COMMENT. INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF (IMS) REP (CAPT COCK) STATED THAT MILITARY COMMITTEE, MEETING IN PRIVATE SESSION, HAD DISCUSSED THE DRAFT REPORT AND WOULD CIRCULATE COMMENTS SOON.

5. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN VALDEREN) SAID THE REPORT SHOULD MAKE A CLEARER DISTINCTION BETWEEN COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTION TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS (CNI) WITH CNI "WARNING" MESSAGES AND WITH CNI "EXPLANATION" MESSAGES. UK REP SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES
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SUPPORTED THIS VIEW. HE SAID THAT THE UK HAD RAISED THIS POINT AS THEY HAD EARLIER DURING THE NPG CNI STUDY, AND THAT, IN HIS VIEW, WINTEX 75 POINTED OUT CLEARLY THE NEED FOR SUCH DISTINCTION.

6. SACLAN T REP (CAPT ORRILL) SAID THAT DRAFT REPORT APPEARED TO CONFUSE THE DIFFERENT "TYPES" OF USE DISCUSSED IN NATO DOCUMENTS (INITIAL USE, DEMONSTRATIVE USE, FOLLOW-ON USE, ETC.). SEVERAL SG REPS AGREED THAT THIS PART OF DRAFT REPORT NEEDED IMPROVEMENT. UK REP SUGGESTED THAT RE-READING PARAS 67-70 AND 75 OF THE PHASE II PRELIMINARY REPORT MIGHT HELP CLEAR UP SOME CONFUSION.

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7. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT THAT DISCUSSION ON WINTEX 75 POINTED OUT POSSIBLE NEED TO REVISE AND UPDATE EXISTING PROVISIONAL POLITICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DEFENSIVE INITIAL USE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY NATO (PPG) EVOKED BROAD RANGE OF COMMENTS. ON THE ONE HAND, IMS REP NOTED THAT EXISTING PPG IS A DELIBERATELY FLEXIBLE DOCUMENT AND ONE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS WHEN CONSIDERING CHANGING IT. ON THE OTHER HAND, UK REP NOTED THAT WITH RECENT NPG WORK LIKE CNI STUDY AND PHASE II REPORT NOW COMPLETE, THE TIME MAY BE APPROACHING WHEN WE SHOULD TRY TO PULL TOGETHER ALL NPG AND RELATED NATIONAL WORK INTO A SINGLE DOCUMENT SETTING FORTH A COMPREHENSIVE DOCTRINE FOR TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE ADDED THAT IT IS ALREADY APPARENT THAT THE SECTION OF THE PPG DEALING WITH "FOLLOW-ON USE" NEEDS REDOING.

8. US REP (WOODWORTH) SAID THAT THE DRAFT PERMREPS REPORT SHOULD HAVE A LEAD-IN SECTION WHICH SETS THE STAGE OF THE EXERCISE, MAKING CLEAR THE ARTIFICIALITIES THAT SURROUND IT AND THE LIMITATIONS THESE PLACE ON THE CONCLUSIONS/OBSERVATIONS THAT MIGHT BE DRAWN. HE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE REPORT SHOULD SEEK TO DEVELOP CONCLUSIONS ON THE SUITABILITY OF VARIOUS NUCLEAR OPTIONS FOR INITIAL OR FOLLOW-ON USE, BUT ONLY ATTEMPT TO DESCRIBE
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THE IMPORTANT POLITICAL AND MILITARY CONSIDERATIONS ABOUT EACH THAT THE EXERCISE HIGHLIGHTED. HE CAUTIONED AGAINST ALLOWING EXPERIENCE FROM WINTEX 75 TO LEAD TO PREMATURE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE ADEQUACY OF THE PPG. HE EXPANDED ON EARLIER OBSERVATION BY IMS REP BY SAYING THAT PPG WAS CAREFULLY DRAFTED

TO PROVIDE NEEDED FLEXIBILITY TO MEET A WIDE RANGE OF CIRCUM-
STANCES WHICH CAN NEVER BE ENTIRELY FORESEEN.

9. CHAIRMAN SAID THAT IS WOULD ATTEMPT TO CIRCULATE A REVISED
DRAFT REPORT ON WINTEX 75 FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT SG MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 7. BRUCE

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